

**PROCESS FOR SEPARATING ESSENTIAL OILS FROM AN**  
**ESSENTIAL OIL-CONTAINING MATERIAL**

**ABSTRACT**

5 A process is provided for separating essential oils from  
an essential oil-containing material. The process  
comprises the steps of subjecting the essential oil-  
containing material to steam distillation using a steam  
distillation vessel or extraction using an extraction  
10 vessel. This produces a mixture containing the essential  
oil and at least one hydrophilic phase. This mixture is  
then contacted with a hydrophobic adsorbent in an  
adsorption vessel. The hydrophilic phase leaving the  
adsorption vessel is recycled to the steam distillation  
15 vessel or extraction vessel. Finally, the essential oils  
are desorbed from the adsorbent.

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